

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 00320 150205Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-05 OMB-01 /101 W

----- 102899

R 150057Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7273

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0320

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN ON NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN FINANCIAL REVIEW JANUARY 15:

QTE KILLEN REVERSES THE NUCLEAR SHIP BAN.

2. QTE THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE, MR. KILLEN, SAID YESTERDAY
TAHT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE AUSTRALIA'S
ALLIES TO MAKE USE OF AUSTRALIA'S NAVAL FACILITIES, AND THIS
INCLUDED NUCLEAR SUBMARINES AND NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS.

3. QTE THIS FOLLOWS MR. FRASER'S COMMENT ON TUESDAY THAT
AMERICA WOULD BE WELCOME TO MAKE USE OF AUSTRALIA'S NAVAL
BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 00320 150205Z

4. QTE THIS IS A MOVE THAT PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN

RELUCTANT TO MAKE, INCLUDING THE COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER MCMAHON.

5. QTE MR. KILLEN WAS ASKED YESTERDAY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE WHY THERE HAD BEEN A DELAY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITIES OF COCKBURN SOUND.

6. QTE HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS A POLICY DECISION OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT OPPOSED BY THE THEN OPPOSITION AND THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD CONTINUE UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

7. QTE THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW KEEN TO HAVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITIES SPEEDED UP.

8. QTE MR. KILLEN IS AWAITING A REPORT WHICH WILL ASSESS THE COSTS INVOLVED AND THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS.

9. QTE THE RATIONALE FOR THIS SPEEDING UP PROCESS, IS ACCORDING TO MR. KILLEN, THAT EXISTING NAVAL FACILITIES IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN ARE INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT A DEFENSIVE NAVAL CAPACITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

10. QTE HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE BASE AS INDISPENSABLE TO THE DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA AND THAT ALLIES WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE USE OF IT.

11. QTE THE FACILITY COULD BE USED BY NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, HE SAID, AS THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR SHIPS ARE EVER INCREASING.

12. QTE MR. KILLEN MADE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS AND NUCLEAR ARMED WARSHIPS.

13. QTE HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPROVE THE USE OF OUR NAVAL FACILITIES BY NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS BUT SAID THAT THE CASE OF NUCLEAR ARMED WARSHIPS WOULD BE A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME AND HE DID NOT WANT TO PREEMPT THE DECISIONS.

14. QTE THE BUILD-UP OF SOVIET NAVAL FORCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN PRESENTED A THREAT, HE SAID.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 00320 150205Z

15. QTE INNER QTE OBJECTIVELY THE PRESENCE OF SHIPS THERE COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A DISPLAY OF PASSIVITY, END INNER QTE HE SAID.

16. QTE INNER QTE AUSTRALIA HAS A NAVAL RESPONSIBILITY IN TWO OCEANS, THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND SHIPS CAN'T BE MAINTAINED WITH EASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM NAVAL FACILITIES

IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN BECAUSE OF THE IMMENSE DISTANCED INVOLVED.

17. QTE INNER QTE THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM (OF DEVELOPMENT AT COCKBURN SOUND) HAS BEEN DISTURBED BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT DECISIONS.

18. QTE INNER QTE I HAVE ASKED THAT IF IT BE POSSIBLE PROGRAMS BE REINSTATED.

19. QTE INNER QTE THEY TOOK OUT OF THE PROGRAM THE WORKING FACILITIES FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF BERTHING FACILITIES AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT PUT BACK.

20. QTE INNER QTE BUT ALL MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT THE BASE IS OPERATING TO THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. END INNER QTE.

21. NEVERTHELESS MR. KILLEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT UNTIL HE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT HE IS UNABLE TO ISOLATE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN STEPPING UP THE CONSTRUCION OF THE BASE--OR THE COST. END QTE.

22. SIMILAR ARTICLES APPEARED ACROSS SPECTRUM OF AUSTRALIAN PRESS.
PERCIVAL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, POLICIES, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER00320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-1046
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760155/aaaabwsv.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER KILLEN ON NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS
TAGS: MARR, AS, (KILLEN, DENIS J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006